May 13, 2016

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: EDU/026/2016)

On April 25, 2016, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"Dillon Consulting was hired to conduct a number snow load assessments and structural inspections on schools located within the jurisdiction of the NL English School District between 2011 and 2015. We are requesting the following information: Who requested and authorized Dillon Consulting to conduct these snow load and building structure assessments? What was his/her authority to make this decision? What was the reasoning and justification to complete this type of consulting work on snow loads and building structures? Who made the decision to select Gander area and Placentia area buildings/schools to be included in this report? What was the rationale for selecting these two areas? Was the capital works "priority list" for repairs on schools/government buildings used for the selection of Gander/Placentia areas to be reviewed by Dillon Consulting? Why or why not?"

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) to provide access to the requested information.

Who requested and authorized Dillon Consulting to conduct these snow load and building structure assessments?
The Department of Transportation and Works (TW) authorized the assessment.

What was his/her authority to make this decision?
Engineers within TW and EECD determined that it was prudent to have a closer review of public buildings in these areas. The Minister of Transportation and Works or his/her authorized designate would have authorized the Prime Consultant Agreement.

What was the reasoning and justification to complete this type of consulting work on snow loads and building structures?
As part of a structural review of a building in Central Newfoundland it was highlighted that there may have been significant changes to how snow loads are calculated for that area. In light of that information TW and EECD worked together to look at snow load calculations across the province. Over time, the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) has revised how snow loading is calculated for building designs. In an effort to understand the impact to government owned facilities and whether they meet current codes as they relate to snow loading, TW engaged Dillon Consulting to complete a review of the revisions to Snow Load calculations in the NBCC.
Who made the decision to select Gander area and Placentia area buildings/schools to be included in this report?

Based on the NBCC review, these areas of the province were identified as having notable changes in snow load calculations. Engineers within TW and EECD determined that it was prudent to have a closer review of public buildings in these areas.

What was the rationale for selecting these two areas?

Based on the NBCC review, these areas of the province were identified as having notable changes in snow load calculations.

Was the capital works "priority list" for repairs on schools/government buildings used for the selection of Gander/Placentia areas to be reviewed by Dillon Consulting? Why or why not?"

No. TW and EECD worked together to look at snow load calculations across the province. Based on the NBCC review, the Gander/Placentia areas were identified as having notable changes in snow load calculations.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-1841 or by e-mail at brianevans@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brian Evans
Director of Information Management & Special Projects
ATIPP Coordinator